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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

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SUBJECT The Metrom Factory, Stalin (Brasov)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

1. The Metrom metallurgical factory, located at Stalin (Brasov) (see diagram), in October 1951 employed approximately 2,000 workers. It carries on the following productions:

   a. The factory makes steel races for ball bearings, with outer diameters approximately from 10 to 27 cm.

   b. The plant manufactures copper inner rings with diameters from 7/8 to 25 cm., for ball bearings for the steel outer rings above. The cross-section of the copper rings consists of a rectangle from 5 to 8 cm. in height and about 1 cm. and up in width. The metal used for these rings consists mostly of copper designated by the figure 10, though some are made of qualities known as 12, 14, 16, and 18. Between 16 and 22 rings are made from one 200-kg. bar of copper. Each of the three lathes used for this operation can process about 10 bars in each of the three daily 8-hour shifts. No complete bearings are made by Metrom, the races and rings being sent to other factories to be fitted with balls. Only the smallest of these bearings are used for automobiles.

   c. Copper bars 30 to 34 cm. long and 4 to 26 cm. wide are accurately manufactured to special order from bars 1.80 to 2 meters long and 10 to 25 cm. thick. These latter bars are made in one of the Metrom foundries. The precision bars are marked with figures to indicate quality, thickness and series. [redacted] either to Baia Mare or to the USSR and doubts the official explanation that the bars are used for the manufacture of ball bearings. 50X1

   d. Copper wire and cable are made for delivery to a factory at Satu Lung, which was opened in 1949-1950. This plant produces telephone and bell wire and employs approximately 500 workers.

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e. Thick copper plates are cast in special molds from units of cast metal and sent to an unknown destination. Each plate weighs 250 kg.

f. Brass cylinders are made for the production of cartridge cases.

g. Aluminum plates are made to order. They are also made by recasting ingots in special molds. The plates are one meter square and 10 to 12 cm. thick. Aluminum bars are similarly made.

h. Fuses for grenades are made of an aluminum alloy probably containing lead. Though it is generally known what purpose these serve, they are faked to resemble siphons for soda water bottles. Their production is supervised by army officers of the rank of colonel and major.

i. Iron machine casings are manufactured to order, usually by being cast in sand forms.

j. A new section of the factory has been producing electrodes since the beginning of 1952. The equipment is probably of Swiss origin as it was installed by two Swiss mechanics. Only electrodes about 30 cm. in length are made.

k. Early in 1952 a number of nickel plates were made of metal supplied by the USSR, where [redacted] the finished plates were sent. 50X1

2. Metrom uses scrap copper from Baia Mare and brass from used cartridge cases sent from the USSR as raw material. The scrap metal is recast into better alloys by the Metrom foundries. Ten to 20 tons of scrap copper at a time are also imported from Bulgaria.

3. The various sections of the factory (see diagram) are known by numbers, as follows:

a. Workshop No. 1 makes sheet brass for cartridge cases and aluminum plates for grenade fuses. Its equipment consists of two large rolling machines, one 30 meters long and one somewhat smaller, and five or six small rollers. The machines are linked together and the metal passes through each in turn.

b. Workshop No. 2 makes brass tape, two meters long and five cms. wide, for cartridge cases. There are two rolling machines.

c. Workshop No. 3 makes the cartridge cases themselves. There are approximately 20 electrically operated presses, with 80 employees, mostly women, working in three shifts of eight hours each.

d. Workshop No. 4 makes the heavy copper and aluminum plates and aluminum bars. It has one large and 8 or 10 smaller furnaces and a machine for cleaning copper plates after they have been taken from the molds.

e. Workshop No. 5 is subdivided into two sections, one containing chemical baths, and four furnaces in which the copper is heated, and the other having four wire drawing machines and spools on which the wire is wound. This section also contains machinery to clean the aluminum plates made in Workshop No. 4 and has two of the three lathes on which rings for ball bearings and specially ordered bars are made.

f. In Workshop No. 6 copper of qualities 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18 is cast. Its equipment consists of three furnaces, two large ones heated with methane gas and one small electric furnace. In the middle of this workshop is the third lathe making rings for ball bearings and special bars. The lathe is a French Pax with a drive belt and a maximum span of four meters.

g. Workshop No. 7 is the main turning shop of the factory and contains between 30 and 40 modern electric lathes. The races for the ball bearings are made here.

h. Workshop No. 8 has a number of pneumatic presses used for the manufacture of grenade fuses. The majority of the 250 workers employed here are women. Work is in three shifts of eight hours each.

i. Workshop No. 9 is the mechanical and repair shop.

j. Workshop No. 10 is an iron foundry.

k. The electrodes are manufactured in Workshop No. 11.

l. Workshop No. 12, which contains a large modern furnace, was installed in October 1951 and is to have the same functions as Workshop No. 4.

m. Workshop No. 13 has one furnace, set up out of doors, for melting down scrap iron. This is cast in sand forms.

4. The Steagul Rosu Factory (opposite Metrom) has three or four workshops with modern electrical lathes used exclusively for the manufacture of races for ball bearings. Informant does not believe that Steagul Rosu produces finished ball bearings or inner rings.

5. In March 1952 several hundred families were evacuated from Stalin (Brasov) to a distant but unknown destination.

Key to Diagram *

	Description
a.	Entrance to the Metrom Factory
b.	Darste Stalin Road
c.	From the Metrom Factory to the Darste-Stalin Road - 500 meters
d.	Metrom Depot
e.	Railway siding linking Metrom to Darste station
1 - 13	Metrom Workshops

* Not to scale